

R05JR

05V-190

DATE: May 19, 2005

TO: U.S. DISTRIBUTORS

**SUBJECT: RECALL R05JR FMVSS 221 SCHOOL BUS BODY JOINT
STRENGTH-INTERIOR SIDE PANEL
NONCOMPLIANCE**

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Blue Bird Body Company has decided that certain 2006 model year Blue Bird All American buses manufactured at the Fort Valley, GA. plant from December 06, 2004 through April 08, 2005 fail to conform to "Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 221 School Bus Body Joint Strength".

The nonconformance relates to the interior side panels. The adhesive used in securing the interior side panels provided unsatisfactory performance which resulted in a failure to meet FMVSS 221 Joint Strength requirements. In the event of a crash this could allow the panels to separate exposing passengers inside the bus to serious injury. Blue Bird is conducting a recall to correct this noncompliance.

Distributors will be contacted by a Blue Bird factory representative to determine the number of affected buses on site at their facility. In some cases, factory assistance will be available to complete this recall. Availability of assistance will be determined on a case by case basis. You will need to contact Troy Thompson at 478-822-2871 to schedule assistance, if needed.

Owners are being advised to contact their distributor to schedule an appointment to have this work performed.

If our records indicate affected units were delivered in your service area, a printout identifying affected units is enclosed. Distributors should verify correct owners and that complete shipping addresses are provided for each listed vehicle. If you have in your possession or have sold a vehicle that was purchased from another distributor that may be affected by this recall, please notify me at 478-822-2242.

Instructions required to perform this recall are attached. Time required to perform Recall R05JR is 22.5 hours per bus.

Warranty applications may be submitted to Blue Bird VIA ClaimTrac (use create campaign/bulletin claim).

Federal law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

Distributors are reminded of their responsibilities under section 154 of The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1991. Dealers are required to complete modifications/repairs on units in their inventory before delivering to the final owner. Reference Blue Bird Body Company Distributor Memo No. 42-92.

Important: Your prompt return of the pink reimbursement sheet, complete with the correct Body Serial Numbers, permits Blue Bird to update the record indicating recall has been completed and prevents the mailing of a second notice. This is much appreciated. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused.

Questions regarding this recall campaign should be directed to me at (478) 822-2242.

Thank you,

Bill Coleman
Recall Administrator

Recall R05JR
Interior Side Panel Noncompliance
Modification Instructions

- Remove all seats, placing them outside the bus in the order they are removed so they can be put back in the original position.
- Remove rivets from all bows where the drill templates are to be mounted.
- Remove window washers.
- Remove push out windows to allow drilling for rivets behind window flange.
- Confirm that all rivets used to secure inside side panels to window sill and inside side panels to floor gusset ledge are rivet 1549211 (headlining rivet) at 3-1/2" spacing. Drill out any rivets which are not #1549211 using a 7/32" drill bit.
- Attach drill templates with #10 screws in bows for window sill and floor gusset ledge. (Use template #1740513 for window sill and template #1740521 for floor gusset ledge.)
- Mark hole locations with a 7/32" drill bit.
- Remove drill templates.
- Drill holes with a 7/32" drill bit. (Note: Use 2" drill stops when drilling through side panels.)
- Install rivet 1549211 in the 7/32" holes along the window sill and the floor gusset ledge.
- Re-install push out windows.
- Reattach window washers with #10 screws.
- Re-install seats using new bolts and nuts, and torque to 18-20 ft-lbs. (Gusset ledge bolts #1032283 and nut #0829390. Seat leg bolts #1542448 short/#1542463 long, and nut #0829390.)
- Inspect work and verify that all buzzers and switches work properly. Any pins protruding from rivets must be cut off. **Do not drive protruding pins through rivet.**